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TALON



DANCON wraps it up

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**Apache live fire exercise
Snapshots**

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TALON

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Chaplain's Corner

Try and perform above and beyond

by Chaplain (Col.) Ron Cobb
Command Chaplain

Some of our military duties are very clear and precise. There are a host of other duties that we could do, that need to be done, that are not in any one else's lane.

Recently I was reading in the devotional book *Strength for Service To God and Country* a meditation that asked, "Have you been doing more than your duty lately? Do you realize how great an area of experience lies beyond the boundary line that ordinary duty and obligation draw in our lives? Beyond that line are many of the finest things life has to offer."

No one had to go on the Danish 30 kilometer march. It was beyond our ordinary duty. Those who did go on the march saw first-hand the beauty of Bosnian mountain villages on



Cobb

a sunny spring day. They experienced that comradeship and friendship that working together on painful tasks often produces in the Army.

Perhaps the most important thing that doing more that you are tasked creates is a healthy self-esteem of knowing that you did your very best.

The Hebrew slave named Joseph realized that everything he did was not only for human

beings but for God.

Joseph went far beyond the call of duty in serving the Captain of the Palace Guards in Egypt. He even did an outstanding job running the Pharaoh's prison.

He also went far beyond the call of duty in his relationship with God. All of these things eventually brought him to the position of Prime Minister of Egypt.

Doing your duty far beyond what is expected is something your commander cannot demand. It has to come from within your own heart.

Following God beyond ordinary spirituality is also something that demands even more heart, soul, mind and strength.

In all your life, may you always go far beyond the call of duty, for only then can life itself be fully experienced.

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do."

—Helen Keller

Take care of your troops

Due dates for submission for NCOERs, OERs and awards are as follows:

Awards

ARCOM to G-1 NLT Aug. 1

AAM to G-1 NLT Aug. 1

NCOERs/OERs

HHC NCOERs to G-1 NLT Sept. 1 with end date of Sept. 30.

HHC OERs to G-1 NLT Sept. 1 with end date of Sept. 30.

Suspense dates of NCOERs and OERs for units other than those supported by HHC NLT Aug. 8.

Submission of these awards or reports after these dates may result in not being able to clear Eagle Base for departure to demobilization station or not getting an award.



About the covers:

Front: Members of the Danish Contingent case their colors at their departure ceremony Monday. by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington.

Back: An AH-64 Apache fires a Hellfire missile during a live fire exercise at Glamoc range recently. by Sgt. Guy D. Choate.



Letters to the Editor



You are in charge of your own morale

As a career soldier, I have been exposed to deployments that varied in their levels of morale, expertise and efficiency. Every deployment is unique, but there is one common denominator – that is the need to survive and maintain one's sanity.

There is a cornucopia of reasons that a soldier's perception of a deployment may sour, but the most common reason is poor morale.

The belief that the maintenance of morale lies solely on the command is a fallacy. We are each partly responsible for maintaining our healthy morale. Good morale is a survival tactic that is a necessity for the efficient soldier.

Pessimism is like a virus. It can spread through a unit, infecting even the most professional of soldiers. What is it that compels a soldier to maintain that air of gloom and doom? I believe it is lack of

seeing the adventure that each day holds before us, and the inability to adapt and make a life wherever we may be, that is partly responsible.

Every morning, I wake to the picture of my wife and kids, and say "Good morning" to my roommates as they stumble around the room searching for their kit bags. I prepare myself for the duty day, water my vegetable garden on the way out and head off to work. The workday for all intended purposes is uneventful. However, I set a daily goal of something to accomplish.

This gives me purpose and the satisfaction that my day

has not been wasted. In addition, the day passes quicker bringing me closer to my family. After work, I change into my PTs and sit down to practice either the guitar or harmonica for about an hour.

Next I may have a barbecue with my soldiers from the surrounding hooches or make the half-mile walk to the mess hall and dine with friends.

The evenings are normally capped off with a fierce game of darts or foosball.

I have seen soldiers actually get angry when I say, "We've only got 70 days left!" because they are stuck in that rut of pessimism. The

'glass is half empty' attitude will eventually lead to their detriment.

To coin a phrase, "You must stop and smell the roses." I tell my kids that you're not living unless you have adventures.

I ask all of you to stop and see the adventures in which we are an integral part. Spend time with the interesting people you've met, take a course on "Mating habits of the African Tsetse fly," or do whatever it takes to make you feel whole.

Like pessimism, optimism is also contagious. You will be surprised the positive impact you can make on a mission with this attitude. So my friends, "Soldier up!" Only 50-something days left.

Sgt. James Desmarais
Task Force Medical Eagle

Like pessimism, optimism is also contagious. You will be surprised the positive impact you can make on a mission with this attitude.



Photos by Maj. Kirk Slaughter

Changing command

The Turkish Battalion Task Force conducted its change of command recently in Zenica. (Left) The battalion's color guard stays in step during the ceremony. (Above) Outgoing commander Lt. Col. M. Hakan Kocaman receives a departing gift from incoming commander Lt. Col. Mehmet Karadayi.

TRADOC CG visits Eagle Base

Story and photo by Sgt. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

Many soldiers have passed through the gates of Eagle Base since the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords and the U.S. Army's arrival in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A lot of these soldiers enjoy their time here so much they volunteer to come back. With such on-post amenities as a softball field, soccer field, Triggers, and so very much more, who wouldn't want to come back?

Recently, one of the men responsible for bringing such luxuries to Eagle Base got the chance to come back and witness what changes have come to what was once his home away from home.

Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, the commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, was deployed to Eagle Base as the commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division during Stabilization Force 4 & 5.

"I remember when the softball field was just a swamp," said Byrnes. "We built this city," he said.

Byrnes' visit was more than just a nostalgic journey into his past. During his tour of Eagle Base, Byrnes sat down for breakfast with junior officers and enlisted soldiers to answer questions they had and tell them what steps TRADOC is taking in the future.

One issue that Byrnes addressed during the breakfast was that the Army is learn-

ing from the recent war in Iraq, and is keeping tabs on things that worked and didn't work.

"When we find problems that affect soldiers, we fix it quickly," said the TRADOC commander.

The Army is going back to a "warrior ethos," which means that each soldier has to learn to be a soldier first, and let his military occupational skill always come second to that, Byrnes said.

"Each soldier needs to be able and prepared to fight the most difficult fight; fit to fight – any time, anywhere," said Byrnes. "Getting to that point is not an individual soldier issue, but is an institutional issue," he said.

Byrnes said he was impressed with the mission performance of SFOR 13 and how well the soldiers are being taken care of.

"The courtesies of this outfit let me know they have all of the basic soldier skills," said Byrnes. "The Army is doing the same things that have always been done here, but they are doing them with fewer soldiers, which means we are doing things smarter," he said.

Despite the recent departures of the Russian, Finnish, and Danish contingents from Multinational Brigade (North), Byrnes said that the U.S. Army's presence here continues to have relevance and impact within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"I've walked this mile, and I'll tell you that it's important," Byrnes said.



"The Army is doing the same things that have always been done here, but they are doing them with fewer soldiers, which means we are doing things smarter," said Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC commander. Byrnes was the commanding general of Stabilization Force 4 and 5, and was a recent visitor to Eagle Base.

108th shoots up Glamoc during live-fire exercise

Story and photo by
Sgt. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

Task Forces North and Aviation recently participated in a joint, combined-arms, live-fire exercise at the Resolute Barbara Range in Glamoc.

The five-day exercise was the first time the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) has had troops on the ground helping to direct fire from the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter, according to Maj. John C. Nelson, G-3 operations and training.

"We don't have the area to allow us to conduct joint live-fire exercises in the States," said Nelson.

The scenario consisted of TF North's HUMVEEs patrolling the ground with mounted .50-caliber machine guns, which then fired upon station-

ary cars that were simulating enemy tanks. After firing live rounds from the HUMVEEs, the ground crew then radioed to TF Aviation for air support.

Once the Apaches arrived, they attacked the unfortunate enemy with an on-board arsenal of machine gun fire, rockets, and Hellfire missiles.

"It's somewhat of a rarity to be able to fire the Hellfires," said Nelson.

"For over half of the aviators, it's their first time, and they've been in the Guard for seven to twelve years," he said.

"It's just like any other issued equipment in the Army – you have to familiarize yourself with it to gain confidence in it, and gain confidence in yourself," said 1st Lt. Brian Schumann, one of the Apache pilots involved in the exercise.



Spc. Nathan Steward, a UH-60 Blackhawk crew chief from Ottawa, Kan., reloads his M-60 machine gun during a door gunnery exercise at Glamoc.

DANCON departs Bosnia

by Dunja Vujadinovic
Media Specialist

The Danish Contingent officially completed its peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina Monday with a departure ceremony.

Present at the ceremony were Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason, commander of Multinational Brigade (North), Lt. General William E. Ward, commander of stabilization forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Danish ambassador to BiH Johannes Dahl Hansen.

Mason spoke at the ceremony, thanking the Danish troops for their contribution to the stability of the Bosnian nation.

"This is a sad day but this is a good day. It is sad because we are losing good friends that we may never see again. It is sad because we are losing an important ally in Multinational Brigade (North)," Mason said.

"It is a good day because the departure of units in the SFOR mission is an indicator of its success in the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

In late 1993, the first Danish tank unit was deployed to Bosnia to defend the U.N.-declared safe area of Tuzla. Today, its 150 soldiers are ready



photos by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Members of the Danish tank squadron salute bystanders during a parade Monday. The parade was part of the departure ceremony for the Danish Contingent. The Danes wrap up more than 10 years of peacekeeping duties in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

to go home.

"We are all taking part in closing a very important chapter of Danish military history and each of us will also be closing a chapter of our personal and professional development. We

about this, but that is not the way ahead," said the Danish

"We are all taking part in closing a very important chapter of Danish military history."

— Lt. Col. Karl Pederson, DANCON commander

contingent's commander, Lt. Col. Karl Pederson.

Ward also praised the DANCON's work in Bosnia, and defined their departure as a sign of progress in SFOR's efforts

environment.

"Our advances toward a sustained peace here could not have been achieved without your great work," Ward said.

Mason awarded 10 Danish soldiers with the Kansas National Guard Commendation Ribbon during the ceremony. One of them was the Danish Squadron's Lance Cpl. Karen Brogger, tank mechanic.

"I will remember many nice moments here in Bosnia and I will miss the beautiful Bosnian countryside," she said.



(Left) Kim Jacobsen, chaplain to the Royal Military of Denmark, receives the Kansas National Guard Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason during the recent Danish departure ceremony. (Right) Danish soldiers stand in formation at Eagle Base during the ceremony to recognize the end of the Danish Contingent's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Snapshots

Photos capture MNB (North) days and nights

(Right) From right, Sgts. Lance Soares and Amy Liddell, and Staff Sgt. Robert Slater, all of the 86th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) are commended by Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason for their efforts to aid a softball player who broke his neck during a recent game at Eagle Base.



by Maj. Bob Hayter

MNB (North) Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Robert Roach is presented the Polish flag flown over Nord-Pol barracks of the Multinational Battle Group in Doboij. The flag was presented during the June 27 Polish Medal Parade by the Polish Battalion commander Lt. Col. Piotr Oleszczak. The flag was presented to Roach for his mother because she is from Poland.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Lt. Col. Rochelle Wasserman is congratulated by Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason after receiving the NATO medal recently. Wasserman is a flight surgeon with Task Force Medical Eagle.



by Sgt Guy D. Choate



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Sgt. Calvin Brown gets ready to make a throw to second base during a recent softball game. Brown, from Madisonville, Texas, is a member of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Some new residents move in to the hallway of one of the barracks in Lone Star Ranch, getting ready for SFOR-14.

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Alabama

Neighbors to let court settle alley dispute

DECATUR – Next-door neighbors in Old Decatur will need a court order to solve a boundary dispute that means easier access to garages for one side and more room to lounge around the pool for the other.

The city of Decatur and five neighbors on Ferry and Walnut streets Northeast filed a lawsuit July 10 against Jerry and Kelly Peevy, of 610 Ferry St., after they erected a fence in what had been an open alley.

The Peevys, however, maintain that their property deed

doesn't grant public easement rights for the alley, and they and previous owners allowed city and residential vehicles to pass as a courtesy. They decided to reclaim 7½ feet of their unused property earlier this year when they installed a pool, Peevy said.

Morgan County Circuit Judge Sherrie Brown will decide the case. No court date is set.

—*The Decatur Daily*

Nebraska

Tornadoes, hail hit eastern Nebraska

LINCOLN – Three tornadoes and hail were part of a storm system that hit eastern Nebraska on Sunday night.

No one was injured, but some grain bins were destroyed when one of the tornadoes passed through part of Stanton County, Sheriff Mike Unger said.

According to the National Weather Service, missing cattle, destroyed crops and minor house damage also were reported after the tornado struck. Hail was reportedly baseball sized there.

Lincoln Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief Ron Kennett said power lines were down all over the city.

Besides the Stanton County tornado, spotters reported two tornadoes in neighboring Platte County, near Platte Center and Silver Creek or about 6 miles northwest of Columbus and 10 miles west of Columbus.

Multiple funnel clouds also were spotted in York and Hamilton counties.

—*Lincoln Journal-Star*

South Carolina

Some stores begin Sunday beer sales

COLUMBIA — Beer and wine went on sale at some convenience stores in Horry and Georgetown County on Sunday. They will likely be joined by more than 100 stores next weekend.

The S.C. Department of Revenue mailed out permits last week to stores seeking to sell beer and wine on Sundays. But most stores had not yet received the permits, and would not sell beer and wine for another week.

Only a handful of stores were

selling beer and wine Sunday, including Camelot By the Sea resort's convenience store in Myrtle Beach, Pantry locations in Murrells Inlet and Pawleys Island, BP Amoco in Pawleys Island and a Kangaroo convenience store in Georgetown.

About 100 stores in Horry County and 40 in Georgetown have so far applied for permits, according to Danny Brazell, spokesman for the Department of Revenue. More are expected.

—*The State*

PSYOPS soldier follows parents' footsteps

by Spc. Felicia Whatley
Contributing Writer

Staff Sergeant Kathrine E. Normandy – “Kat” – is the trilingual project development NCOIC for the 12th Psychological Operations Reserve Detachment, based in Moffettfield, Calif.

Normandy comes from a family of soldiers and police officers. Her mother was one of the Army's first military police officers to serve in Vietnam. Her father, a retired police officer, served in the Army as a helicopter pilot.

Following in her parents' footsteps, Normandy has served seven years in the U.S. Army Reserve and three years as a San Francisco police officer working patrol, vice and narcotics. She also speaks Thai and French.

As a member of PSYOPS, her mission is to provide combat support as a force multiplier, by inducing the enemy to surrender by using all types of broadcast and print communication – leaflets, handbills, posters, TV spots, radio, and magazines – that target a specific audience. The PSYOPS team does an analysis of the country to study the demographics and decide what type and method of communication will most motivate the targeted audience.

Normandy gave an example of how PSYOPS operates: “If we dropped leaflets in Iraq that said, ‘We are going to bomb here tomorrow’ and bombs were dropped there the following day, the next time we dropped the leaflets, they might surrender or disperse,” said Normandy.

Normandy's job at Eagle Base is to come up with posters, TV spots, magazine inserts, and leaflets encouraging tolerance, mine awareness, Stabilization Force enhancement and weapons harvesting.

“Our goal is for them to be peaceful. Tolerance is poignant. In PSYOPS, we do products, not propaganda,” said Normandy.

“I like this job because it's always different. It's a game to



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

“I joined the Army to serve my country and pay back my debts to my country for my freedoms,” said Staff Sgt. Kathrine Normandy, here unloading printed material in Banja Luka.

see how I can convince someone to do something they are pressed against doing,” she said.

She describes PSYOPS as a “soft MOS,” because, “the guidelines of what we can and cannot do are there, but how we affect the target audience is more open-ended. Even how we word things can change the meaning or outcome.”

PSYOPS falls under Special Operations and is part of the same command as Civil Affairs, Special Forces, Rangers and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). “We have a very unconventional job,” said Normandy.

Normandy fits the training and entry requirements of PSYOPS, which include a very high GT score on the ASVAB. She also has to score 70 or above in each event of the Army physical training test, pass a swim and drown-proof test, and do a 10-kilometer road march in two hours with a rucksack that is 55 pounds or one-third her body weight. Like all PSYOPS soldiers, she is a qualified night firer and sharp shooter with the M16A2.

“I joined the Army to serve my country and pay back my debts to my country for my freedoms. Being a police officer is an extension of that.”

